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Washington Merry-Go- Round

By DREW PEARSON

(The author of this column is given the widest latitude. His views do not necessarily reflect those of THE MIRROR.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Congressional leaders who met with the President last week learned that the world was in a much more precarious position than appeared in the newspapers.

It was stated publicly afterward that the briefing was reassuring. Privately, Congressional leaders said just the opposite.



Hoover

Next week will tell whether the world will be plunged into war, President Eisenhower was represented as saying. The United States is powerless to control developments.

We are willing and able to fight the Congressmen were told. If it has to come to that. What Russia does in the next few days will tell the story.

The President opened and closed the conference. Herbert Hoover, Jr., Acting Secretary of State in the absence of John Foster Dulles, read a prepared statement.

Admiral Radford, dynamic chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke of the logistic troubles the Russians would have in moving troops into the Suez area. He estimated it would take several weeks because of the distance and because of the fact that Egypt is completely surrounded by non-Communist nations.

He suggested Russia might be able to make a secret concentration inside Jordan along the Israeli border, then invade from that direction.

It was brought out that Russia already has technical equipment on hand in the Near East necessary to fight a war. That was what the British lost a plane over Syria flying at 45,000 feet. It could only have been brought down at that altitude with radar intercepting equipment, obviously supplied by Russia.

Heart of the White House briefing was summarized by the President. He said we do not intend to give in to the East. What happens there is up to Russia. There are two chief paths Russia could take:

- 1—move in the Red Army—which would mean war.
- 2—move in volunteers—which

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Poverty Stricken: Being so poor, you don't know where the next down payment is coming from.

would not mean war. It would be serious but war could be avoided.

3—Let the United Nations police force settle the dispute.

The opinion was expressed that the UN and the West had moved so fast to send a police force that they had caught Russia off base. It was believed that Moscow definitely intended to move troops but the UN got there first. If Russia does not move by this week, peace will be preserved.

No matter what happens, however, the Congressmen were told Russia will end up with a new satellite—Syria. Already that country is communist infiltrated.

Russia would have plenty of troops to move to Egypt, should that be Moscow's decision, the Congressmen were told, because the blood bath in Hungary has destroyed any chance of revolt in Poland, Czechoslovakia or East Germany.

Ike was sympathetic toward Hungary, but did not see just

what we could do without risking war.

As the conference closed, Senator Lyndon Johnson, the Texas leader, gave assurances of bipartisan approach on foreign affairs.

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